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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING
COMMITTEE FOR A FRAMEWORK
CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

RULES OF PROCEDURE*

I. REPRESENTATION

Composition of delegations

Rule 1

The delegation of each State participating in the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (hereinafter referred to as "the Committee") shall consist of a head of delegation and such other representatives, alternate representatives and advisers as may be required.

Alternates and advisers

Rule 2

The head of delegation may designate an alternate representative or an adviser to act as a representative.

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* The present rules of procedure were adopted by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change at its 9th plenary meeting, on 11 February 1991.

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II. OFFICERS

Temporary Chairman

Rule 3

The Secretary-General of the United Nations or, in his absence, his representative, shall open the first meeting of the Committee and preside until the Committee has elected its Chairman.

Elections

Rule 4

The Committee shall elect from among the representatives of participating States the following officers who shall constitute the Bureau: a Chairman and four Vice-Chairmen, one of whom shall act as Rapporteur. Each of the five regional groups shall be represented by one member.

General powers of the Chairman

Rule 5

1. In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him elsewhere by these rules, the Chairman shall preside at the plenary meetings of the Committee, declare the opening and closing of each meeting, direct the discussion, ensure observance of these rules, accord the right to speak, promote general agreement, inform the Committee on efforts to reach general agreement, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. The Chairman shall rule on points of order and, subject to these rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings and over the maintenance of order thereat. The Chairman may propose to the Committee the closure of the list of speakers, a limitation on the time to be allowed to speakers and on the number of times each representative may speak on a question, the adjournment or the closure of the debate and the suspension or the adjournment of a meeting.

2. The Chairman, in the exercise of his functions, remains under the authority of the Committee.

Acting Chairman

Rule 6

1. If the Chairman finds it necessary to be absent from a meeting or any part thereof, he shall designate a Vice-Chairman to take his place.

2. A Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman shall have the powers and duties of the Chairman.

Replacement of the Chairman

Rule 7

If the Chairman is unable to perform his functions, a new Chairman shall be elected.

The Chairman shall not vote

Rule 8

The Chairman, or Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman, shall not vote in the Committee, but shall designate another member of his delegation to vote in his place.

III. SECRETARIAT

Duties of the Secretary-General

Rule 9

The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall be the Secretary-General of the Committee. He, or his representative, shall act in that capacity in all meetings of the Committee and its subsidiary organs.

Duties of the secretariat

Rule 10

The secretariat of the Committee shall, in accordance with these rules:

(a) Interpret speeches made at meetings;

(b) Receive, translate, reproduce and distribute the documents of the Committee;

(c) Make and arrange for the keeping of sound recordings of meetings;

(d) Arrange for the custody and preservation of the documents of the Committee in the archives of the United Nations; and

(e) Generally perform all other work that the Committee may require.

Statements by the secretariat

Rule 11

In the exercise of the duties referred to in rules 9 and 10, the Secretary-General or any other member of the staff designated for that purpose may, at any time, make either oral or written statements concerning any question under consideration.

IV. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Quorum

Rule 12

The Chairman may declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed when representatives of at least one third of the States participating in the work of the Committee are present. The presence of representatives of a majority of the States so participating shall be required for any decision to be taken.

Speeches

Rule 13

1. No one may address the Committee without having previously obtained the permission of the Chairman. Subject to rules 14, 15, 18, 19 and 20, the Chairman shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak. The secretariat shall be in charge of drawing up a list of such speakers. The Chairman may call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

2. The Committee may limit the time allowed to each speaker and the number of times each representative may speak on a question. Before a decision is taken, two representatives may speak in favour of, and two against, a proposal to set such limits. When the debate is limited and a speaker exceeds the allotted time, the Chairman shall call him to order without delay.

Precedence

Rule 14

The Chairman or Rapporteur of a subsidiary organ may be accorded precedence for the purpose of explaining the conclusions arrived at by the subsidiary organ in question.

Points of order

Rule 15

During the discussion of any matter, a representative of a State participating in the work of the Committee may at any time raise a point of order, which shall be decided immediately by the Chairman in accordance with these rules. A representative may appeal against the ruling of the Chairman. The appeal shall be put to the vote immediately, and the Chairman's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the representatives present and voting. A representative may not, in raising a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Closing list of speakers

Rule 16

During the course of a debate, the Chairman may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Committee, declare the list closed.

Right of reply

Rule 17

1. Notwithstanding rule 16, the Chairman shall accord the right of reply to a representative of any State participating in the work of the Committee who requests it.

2. Replies made pursuant to the present rule shall be made at the end of the last meeting of the day, or at the conclusion of the consideration of the relevant issue if that is sooner.

3. The number of interventions in reply for any delegation at a given meeting should be limited to two per issue.

4. The first intervention in reply, for any delegation on any issue at a given meeting, shall be limited to five minutes and the second intervention shall be limited to three minutes.

Adjournment of debate

Rule 18

A representative may at any time move the adjournment of the debate on the question under discussion. In addition to the proposer of the motion permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives

in favour and to two opposing the adjournment, after which the motion shall, subject to rule 21, be immediately put to the vote.

Closure of debate

Rule 19

A representative may at any time move the closure of the debate on the question under discussion, whether or not any other representative has signified his wish to speak. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives opposing the closure, after which the motion shall, subject to rule 21, be immediately put to the vote.

Suspension or adjournment of the meeting

Rule 20

Subject to rule 32, a representative may at any time move the suspension or the adjournment of the meeting. No discussion on such motions shall be permitted and they shall, subject to rule 21, be immediately put to the vote.

Order of motions

Rule 21

The motions indicated below shall have precedence in the following order over all proposals or other motions before the meeting:

(a) To suspend the meeting;

(b) To adjourn the meeting;

(c) To adjourn the debate on the question under discussion;

(d) To close the debate on the question under discussion.

Proposals and amendments

Rule 22

Proposals and amendments shall normally be submitted in writing to the Secretary-General, who shall circulate copies to all delegations. As a general rule, no proposal shall be discussed or put to the vote at any meeting of the Committee unless copies of it have been circulated to all delegations not later than the day preceding the meeting. The Chairman may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of amendments, even though these amendments have not been circulated or have only been circulated the same day.

Decisions on competence

Rule 23

Subject to rule 21, any motion calling for a decision on the competence of the Committee to discuss any matter or to adopt a proposal submitted to it shall be put to the vote before the matter is discussed or a decision is taken on the proposal in question.

Withdrawal of proposals and motions

Rule 24

A proposal or a motion may be withdrawn by its proposer at any time before voting on it has commenced, provided that it has not been amended. A proposal or a motion that has thus been withdrawn may be reintroduced by any representative.

Reconsideration of proposals

Rule 25

When a proposal has been adopted or rejected it may not be reconsidered unless the Committee, by a two-thirds majority of the representatives present and voting, so decides. Permission to speak on the motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing the motion, after which it shall be immediately put to the vote.

Invitations to technical advisers

Rule 26

The Committee may invite to one or more of its meetings any person whose technical advice it may consider useful for its work.

V. DECISION-MAKING

General agreement

Rule 27

1. The Committee shall make its best endeavours to ensure that the work of the Committee is accomplished by general agreement.

2. If, in the consideration of any matter of substance, all efforts by the Committee and its Chairman, pursuant to the provisions of rule 5, have been made and no agreement appears to be attainable, the Committee shall thereupon decide on the steps to be taken, in accordance with rule 29.

Voting rights

Rule 28

Each State participating in the work of the Committee shall have one vote.

Majority required

Rule 29

Subject to rule 27, decisions of the Committee and its subsidiary organs shall be taken in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and its committees, respectively.

Meaning of the phrase "representatives present and voting"

Rule 30

For the purpose of these rules, the phrase "representatives present and voting" means representatives present and casting an affirmative or negative vote. Representatives who abstain from voting shall be considered as not voting.

Method of voting

Rule 31

1. Except as provided in rule 38, the Committee shall normally vote by show of hands, except that a representative may request a roll-call, which shall then be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the States participating in the work of the Committee, beginning with the delegation whose name is drawn by lot by the Chairman. The name of each State shall be called in all roll-calls and its representative shall reply "yes", "no" or "abstention".

2. When the Committee votes by mechanical means, a non-recorded vote shall replace a vote by show of hands and a recorded vote shall replace a roll-call. A representative may request a recorded vote, which shall, unless a representative requests otherwise, be taken without calling out the names of the States participating in the Committee.

3. The vote of each State participating in a roll-call or a recorded vote shall be inserted in any record of or report on the meeting.

Conduct during voting

Rule 32

After the Chairman has announced the commencement of voting, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order in connection with the process of voting.

Explanation of vote

Rule 33

Representatives may make brief statements consisting solely of explanations of vote, before the voting has commenced or after the voting has been completed. The Chairman may limit the time to be allowed for such explanations. The representative of a State sponsoring a proposal or motion shall not speak in explanation of vote thereon, except if it has been amended.

Division of proposals

Rule 34

A representative may move that parts of a proposal be voted on separately. If a representative objects, the motion for division shall be voted upon. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives in favour and two opposing the division. If the motion is carried, those parts of the proposal that are subsequently approved shall be put to the vote as a whole. If all operative parts of the proposal have been rejected, the proposal shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

Amendments

Rule 35

A proposal is considered an amendment to another proposal if it merely adds to, deletes from or revises part of that proposal. Unless specified otherwise, the word "proposal" in these rules shall be considerd as including amendments.

Order of voting on amendments

Rule 36

When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Committee shall vote first on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal and then on the amendment next furthest removed therefrom and so on until all the amendments have been put to the vote. Where, however, the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another amendment, the latter shall not be put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted upon.

Order of voting on proposals

Rule 37

1. If two or more proposals, other than amendments, relate to the same question, they shall, unless the Committee decides otherwise, be voted on in the order in which they were submitted. The Committee may, after each vote on a proposal, decide whether to vote on the next proposal.

2. Revised proposals shall be voted on in the order in which the original proposals were submitted, unless the revision substantially departs from the original proposal. In that case, the original proposal shall be considered as withdrawn and the revised proposal shall be treated as a new proposal.

3. A motion requiring that no decision be taken on a proposal shall be put to the vote before a vote is taken on the proposal in question.

Elections

Rule 38

All elections shall be held by secret ballot unless, in the absence of any objection, the Committee decides to proceed without taking a ballot when there is an agreed candidate or slate.

Rule 39

1. When one or more elective places are to be filled at one time under the same conditions, those candidates, in a number not exceeding the number of such places, obtaining in the first ballot a majority of the votes cast and the largest number of votes shall be elected.

2. If the number of candidates obtaining such a majority is less than the number of places to be filled, additional ballots shall be held to fill the remaining places.

VI. SUBSIDIARY ORGANS

Subsidiary organs

Rule 40

The Committee may establish such subsidiary organs as it deems necessary, which shall elect their own officers.

VII. LANGUAGES AND RECORDS

Languages of the Committee

Rule 41

Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish shall be the languages of the Committee.

Interpretation

Rule 42

1. Speeches made in a language of the Committee shall be interpreted into the other such languages.

2. A representative may speak in a language other than a language of the Committee if the delegation concerned provides for interpretation into one such language.

Sound recordings of meetings

Rule 43

The secretariat shall make sound recordings of meetings of the Committee. Such recordings shall be made of meetings of subsidiary organs when the organ concerned so decides.

Languages of official documents

Rule 44

Official documents shall be made available in the languages of the Committee.

VIII. PUBLIC AND PRIVATE MEETINGS

Plenary meetings

Rule 45

The plenary meetings of the Committee shall be held in public unless the Committee decides otherwise. All decisions taken by the plenary of the Committee at a private meeting shall be announced at an early public meeting of the plenary.

Other meetings

Rule 46

Meetings of subsidiary organs shall be held in private unless the organ concerned decides otherwise.

Communiqués on private meetings

Rule 47

At the close of a private meeting, the Chairman of the Committee or the organ concerned may issue a communiqué to the press through the Secretary-General.

IX. OBSERVERS AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS

Participation of observers

Rule 48

Observers shall participate in the work of the Committee in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly.

Participation of non-governmental organizations

Rule 49

Non-governmental organizations invited to the Committee may make contributions to the negotiating process, as appropriate, on the understanding that these organizations shall not have any negotiating role during the process, and taking into account decision 1/1 concerning the participation of non-governmental organizations adopted by the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at its first session.

X. SUSPENSION AND AMENDMENT OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

Method of suspension

Rule 50

Any of these rules may be suspended by the Committee provided that twenty-four hours' notice of the proposal for the suspension has been given, which may be waived if no representative objects. Any such suspension shall be limited to a specific and stated purpose and to a period required to achieve that purpose.

Method of amendment

Rule 51

These rules of procedure may be amended by a decision of the Committee taken by a two-thirds majority of the representatives present and voting, after the Committee has been informed of the proposed amendment.

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING
COMMITTEE FOR A FRAMEWORK
CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE
First session
Washington, D.C., 4-14 February 1991

REPORT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR A FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE WORK OF ITS FIRST SESSION, HELD AT WASHINGTON, D.C., FROM 4 TO 14 FEBRUARY 1991

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The first session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change was held at Washington, D.C., from 4 to 14 February 1991, in the Westfields International Conference Center, at the invitation of the Government of the United States of America. The meeting was convened in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 45/212 of 21 December 1990, entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind", further to resolutions 43/53 of 6 December 1988 and 44/207 of 22 December 1989.

2. The Ad Hoc Working Group of Government Representatives to Prepare for Negotiations on a Framework Convention on Climate Change was convened by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) at Geneva from 24 to 26 September 1990. The Ad Hoc Working Group made recommendations concerning the work of the first negotiating session. Other relevant material was provided in the statement and Ministerial Declaration of the Second World Climate Conference (A/45/696/Add.1, annexes II and III) and the First Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Opening of the session

3. The session was opened by Mr. Antoine Blanca, Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation. In a statement made on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, he welcomed all participants and emphasized that the only way to preserve the planet Earth was to remove the barriers that separate peoples and nations. What was needed at present was to deal not only with the symptoms of climate change, but also with its causes by rethinking the present wasteful style of living. The task before the international community was formidable: rethinking development in the North as well as in the South and ensuring stability and rationality as well as equity and justice between nations, peoples and individuals. Ethical and moral questions linked with the environment, which had previously been ignored for economic and other reasons, had suddenly become major and pressing preoccupations; accelerated climate change required the modification of relations among States, institutions and the exercise of power. This small planet had started to force mankind to act in concert. Peace also meant living in peace with the planet.

4. The Director-General further stated that the United Nations and its associated bodies, in particular UNEP and WMO, as well as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, had participated actively in the preparations for the negotiations. He emphasized the need for strategies that could integrate development with the necessary transfer of financial resources and environmentally safe technologies to developing countries. He drew attention to the parallel that existed between the San Francisco Conference and the process being set in motion at the present meeting. The San Francisco Conference was the result of war between people. The present meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee

resulted from war between people and the planet. The framework convention on climate change, which should be signed at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be held at Rio de Janeiro in 1992, would be the keystone for a new global order based on justice, equity and long-lasting and environmentally sound development.

5. Mr. Michael R. Deland, Chairman of the President's Council on Environmental Quality, warmly welcomed delegates to the United States of America on behalf of President Bush. The United States, he said, believed that a comprehensive strategy, built on a series of actions with a broad range of benefits, must flow from a commitment to economic growth and responsible stewardship of our planet. Action taken by the Government of the United States would result in greenhouse gas emissions in the year 2000 in the United States being equal to or below 1987 levels. Research and action must proceed in tandem and for that reason global climate research in the United States had increased fivefold since 1989. The United States Government would be seeking $1.2 billion for the coming fiscal year and, in the words of President Bush, it was "prepared to work openly, diligently and respectfully toward achieving the goal of completing a climate change convention in time for its signature at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in June 1992". It was the height of irony, Mr. Deland observed, that as a constructive dialogue was beginning on the shared environmental future of mankind Saddam Hussein's premeditated release of crude oil into the Persian Gulf had inflicted enormous environmental damage. That act would not divert the United States from the task at hand, for which work must go on co-operatively, and those present should act as catalysts for an essential kind of peace - a peace between humanity and the planet.

6. The issues involved were complex and had many implications for present and future generations: the United States recognized the need to promote environmental stewardship for all the world's peoples, in a forum that was democratic and co-operative. There were several guiding principles. Efforts must be comprehensive, addressing a dynamic system of interactions between living things, the waters, land and sky. Agreements should be long term and adaptable; a convention was needed that committed all nations to meaningful action but was not a fixed formula; actions must be continuously reviewed and refined as knowledge and conditions changed. The approach should be inclusive, because the issues were global, involving the participation of all nations. A climate convention should take into account the financial and technological realities of all nations.

7. Mr. Deland ended with a quotation from a statement made by President Bush in April 1990:

> "Those who have ascended the economic hill must break down the barriers to progress and assist others now making the climb."

8. Mr. Mostafa K. Tolba, the Executive Director of UNEP, emphasized in his statement that General Assembly resolution 45/212 showed a clear recognition that the actions needed to minimize climate change and stop global warming were complex and difficult. He expressed the willingness of UNEP to support those negotiations and fulfil its obligations under the resolution; positive guidance was expected from the UNEP Governing Council at its meeting in May 1991.

9. He emphasized that since the negotiations had began the Gulf war had continued to cause great sorrow. All were concerned about the loss of human life, about the future of the world and about the disastrous environmental destruction that was resulting from the presence of oil in the fragile waters of the Persian Gulf, from the impact of dangerous substances on the air, land and waters, and of the climatic impacts of large-scale burning of the oil in the region. Noting the outcome of the Second World Climate Conference, he said that the mounting body of evidence of global warming and climate change gave urgency to the present negotiations and that the remaining uncertainties should act as a spur, not a restraint. There was much action that could be started now: technically feasible and cost-effective technologies existed that could reduce carbon dioxide emissions from the energy sector by at least 20 per cent in most industrialized countries by the year 2005; a 20-30 per cent reduction in methane emissions was also feasible. Many acts that reduced greenhouse gas emissions could be undertaken at negligible cost. He warned that the overall costs of this exercise in global survival would be enormous in the long term. Yet the cost of inaction would be much higher. The global warming problem required a global solution, and the lead must come from those who contributed most of the greenhouse gases. The 1992 Conference should be apprised not only of the results of the present negotiations but also of those of actions already taken at national level. The two core issues in the negotiations, which could not be avoided, were costs, including additional resources, and transfer of technology. It was imperative to bring into focus the issues of commodity prices, international terms of trade and other economic parameters. Sources of funding to meet the additional resources needed by developing countries to leap-frog the use of polluting technologies might involve carbon charges, users' fees, debt relief, tradeable permits and other innovative means. Any actions the developing world was expected to take to protect man's common environment should not have punitive effects on the vulnerable economies of the developing countries or act as an impediment to their badly needed development. The decision-making processes under the convention must be based on equity between North and South. The negotiations should likewise address such pivotal issues as defining the basis for calculating carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emission reductions; sources and sinks of greenhouse gases; alternative sources of energy; and liability and compensation.

10. Finally he emphasized that the two key words in resolution 45/212 were "effective" and "commitments"; that was what the framework convention was expected to contain. The goal of the convention should be to hold concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere at a safe level and to set achievable targets for energy efficiency and for afforestation. In that context the relation of the climate convention with other treaties, current or planned, should be clarified; the present convention should certainly include concrete commitments on how the industrialized world was planning to ensure full global partnership with the developing world. Rapid action in developing the climate convention should not come at the expense of its content.

11. Mr. G. O. P. Obasi, Secretary-General of WMO, stressed in his statement that the convention to be negotiated by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee would help ensure that the planet Earth continued to provide a home for the life it had nurtured. He observed that the first session of the Committee, which marked a milestone in history, was meeting on a record-breaking warm day for

Washington, D.C., in February. He recalled that the linkages between climate change and the habitability of the planet were identified in 1979 by the First World Climate Conference. Since then much had been learned through the World Climate Programme, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Second World Climate Conference. The Ministerial Declaration of the latter had recognized that a lack of full scientific certainty was no reason to postpone cost-effective action.

12. He stressed the importance of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in exploring interactions and feedbacks, including those involving the Earth/atmosphere system, so as to enhance understanding of the whole: understanding complex interactions was at least as important as understanding individual components. He assured delegations of WMO support in all areas where it was relevant: in helping identify research priorities and monitoring needs, for example; in collecting, analysing and interpreting data; in assisting the developing countries to acquire the skills and methods to study and understand the atmosphere; and in helping to provide administrative support and specialized expertise to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee. As a concrete expression of his organization's willingness to help, and to ensure close co-operation between the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the ad hoc secretariat serving the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, he offered space for the ad hoc secretariat in the WMO premises at Geneva. He reminded delegates that much of man's knowledge rested on observations made by previous generations and that it was now essential that the proposed convention provide for the acquisition of the knowledge needed by future generations. He mentioned specific areas needing immediate action, including the oceans, the Global Atmosphere Watch and the Global Climate Observing System. At the Eleventh World Meteorological Congress he would invite members to consider how WMO might, in the spirit of General Assembly resolution 45/212, further contribute to the negotiations, which could be among the most far-reaching ever for socio-economic development and for future global security and survival. While the negotiations would be about climate change, protection of the atmosphere and environment, they would also be about fundamental global changes in energy policy and practices, the world's forests and the low-cost transfer of energy-efficient technologies to developing countries and funding of development pathways with low greenhouse gas emissions. The negotiations involved the very foundations of global security and the development of nations. He hoped that a framework convention would be ready for signature by the time of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992.

13. He wished the Committee undaunted energy and strength, a good spirit of collaboration and the wisdom to "think long-term but act urgently".

B. Attendance

14. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following States:

Afghanistan
Albania
Algeria
Antigua and Barbuda
Argentina
Australia
Austria
Bahamas
Bangladesh
Barbados
Belgium
Bolivia
Botswana
Brazil
Brunei Darussalam
Bulgaria
Burkina Faso
Cameroon
Canada
Chile
China
Colombia
Comoros
Costa Rica
Cuba
Cyprus
Czechoslovakia
Denmark
Djibouti
Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
Ethiopia
Fiji
Finland
France
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Holy See
Hungary
Iceland
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Ireland
Italy
Japan
Kenya
Kiribati
Kuwait
Lesotho
Malaysia
Malta
Marshall Islands
Mexico
Micronesia
Mongolia
Morocco
Myanmar
Nauru
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Nigeria
Norway
Pakistan
Panama
Papua New Guinea
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Republic of Korea
Romania
Saint Lucia
Samoa
Senegal
Singapore
Solomon Islands
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sweden
Switzerland
Thailand
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Turkey
Tuvalu
Uganda
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Uruguay
Vanuatu
Venezuela
Yugoslavia
Zaire
Zambia

15. The following United Nations offices, organs and specialized agencies were represented at the meeting: Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation and Centre for Science and Technology for Development of the Secretariat, United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC/UNEP/WMO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Labour Organisation (ILO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), World Bank, World Meteorological Organization (WMO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) as well as International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

16. The following intergovernmental organizations were also represented at the meeting: Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee (AALCC), Caribbean Meteorological Organization (CMO), Commonwealth Secretariat, European Community (EEC), International Energy Agency (IEA), Organization of African Unity (OAU), Organization of American States (OAS) and South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

17. The following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council were represented:

Category I: International Chamber of Commerce and Inter-Parliamentary Union;

Category II: Bahai International Community, Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches, Greenpeace International, International Council of Environmental Law, International Human Rights Law Group, International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association and World Resources Institute.

Roster: Friends of the Earth, International Organization of Automobile Manufacturers, International Studies Association, National Audubon Society, Natural Resources Defense Council and Sierra Club.

18. The following other non-governmental organizations were represented: Airconditioning and Refrigeration Institute, Alliance for Responsible CFC Policy, Alliance to Save Energy, Alternative Fluorocarbons Environmental Acceptability Study, American Bar Association, American Gas Association, American Forestry Association, American Institute of Mining and Petroleum Engineers, American Iron and Steel Institute, American Mining Congress, American Petroleum Institute, Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies, Canadian Electrical Association, Celebrate Wild Alaska, Center for Strategic and International Studies, Centre for Atmospheric Chemistry, Centre for Global Change, Centre for International Environmental Law, Chemical Manufacturers Association, Climate Action Network, Climate Council, Climate Institute, Climate Network Europe, Compressed Gas Association, DECCAN Development Society, Ecological Society, Edison Electric Institute, Energy Research Institute, Environmental and Energy Study Institute, Environmental Defense Fund, Episcopal Diocese of Washington Commission on Peace and Environment, Equity and Global Climate Change, European Fluorocarbon Technical Committee, Foreign Policy Institute of Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, Forum of Brazilian NGOs to UNCED 92, Global Climate Change, Global Climate Coalition, Harvard Global Environmental Change Program, Independent Ecological Centre, International Energy Studies, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Kenya Energy and Environment Organizations, Lega per l'Ambiente, Media Natura, Movimento Pro-Floresta da Tijuca, National Academy of Sciences, National Association of Manufacturers, National Coal Association, Pollution Probe, Project on Industry and the Environment, Save the Forests - Save the Planet, Socio-Economic Union, Stockholm Environmental Institute, Union of Concerned Scientists, US Chamber of Commerce, US Citizens Network, Uranium Institute, WALHI, Woods Hole Research Center, World Coal Institute, World Information Transfer and World Wildlife Fund.

C. Election of officers

19. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 4 February, the Committee elected by acclamation Mr. Jean Ripert, Special Adviser to the Minister of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs, France as Chairman of the Committee.

20. In his statement, the Chairman thanked the Committee for the confidence placed in him by the election. He emphasized that he would make every effort to ensure the transparency and legitimacy of the negotiating process. The time for the development of the framework convention was very short, given the difficulties and differences existing between Governments and, in particular, their different capacities to respond to the problem of climate change. He expressed his confidence in the joint capacity of the representatives of the Governments present at the meeting to tackle the problem and in the concerted efforts of UNEP, WMO and the United Nations in supporting the negotiations. The quality of work in the field had been confirmed by the results of the Second World Climate Conference and the outcome of the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. General Assembly resolution 45/212 confirmed the political will to act. The Chairman was confident that the Committee would develop a flexible strategy for the negotiation of the convention. He noted that in resolution 45/212 the General Assembly had recommended a Bureau consisting of a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur, each of the five regional groups being represented by one member.

21. At the 2nd plenary meeting, on 4 February, following informal negotiations with regional groups, four Vice-Chairmen were elected by acclamation, one of whom would act as Rapporteur.

22. The Bureau thus consisted of the following officers:

Chairman: Mr. Jean Ripert (France)

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaf (Algeria)
Mr. Ion Draghici (Romania)
Mr. Raúl Estrada-Oyuela (Argentina)
Mr. T. Prabhakar Menon (India)

Rapporteur: Mr. Ion Draghici (Romania)

23. At the 11th plenary meeting, on 14 February, Mr. Chandrashekhar Dasgupta (India) was elected by acclamation Vice-Chairman in place of Mr. T. Prabhakar Menon (India).

D. Documentation

24. The documents before the Committee at its first session are listed in annex I to the present report.

E. Secretariat

25. At the 8th plenary meeting, on 7 February, the Chairman informed the Committee that the Secretary-General of the United Nations had appointed Mr. Michael Zammit Cutajar as Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change and Director of its ad hoc secretariat.

26. At the 9th plenary meeting, on 11 February, the Chairman introduced Mr. Zammit Cutajar to the Committee and outlined his professional experience and career within the United Nations. The Executive Secretary expressed his conviction that the Committee could contribute to a more efficient and equitable use of the world's resources to satisfy human needs and human aspirations. Given that many actions required to counter climate change were also justified on other grounds, he saw prospects for a framework convention with substantive commitments and with productive linkages to more general programmes in other policy areas. Stressing the importance of full and effective participation in the negotiating process, he pledged his best efforts, with the support of his colleagues from the United Nations system, particularly UNEP and WMO, to respond to the needs and guidance of the Committee.

F. Adoption of the rules of procedure

27. At the 9th plenary meeting, on 11 February, the representative of the Office of Legal Affairs introduced proposed amendments to the draft rules of procedure (A/AC.237/2 and Corr.1). Further amendments were contained in document A/AC.237/L.2. The Committee adopted the draft rules of procedure, as amended (A/AC.237/5).

28. After the adoption of the rules of procedure, statements were made by the representatives of the Netherlands, New Zealand and Vanuatu.

29. The representative of the Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, congratulated the Committee on reaching a compromise, which it considered to be the best possible outcome. The Community would have preferred some improvements in the rules, but did not raise its concern, as a proof of its readiness to compromise. He further confirmed the intention of the European Community to participate fully in the negotiating process of the Committee under the Committee's rules of procedure and expressed its expectation that that participation would take place in constructive co-operation with the other delegations.

30. The representative of New Zealand recalled that eligibility to participate in the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee was determined principally by paragraph 2 of resolution 45/212, which provided that the Committee "should be open to all States Members of the United Nations or members of its specialized agencies". In that context, his delegation affirmed that the adopted rules of procedure must, in so far as they related to the question of participation in the Committee's work, be interpreted in such a way that no restriction on that right to

participate was to be inferred from any provision in the rules of procedure. In particular, but without prejudice to the foregoing, the word "State" where it appears in the rules was to be subject to an interpretation that was sufficient to ensure that "members of the specialized agencies" had full participatory rights in the Committee. That was so whether or not they were States Members of the United Nations.

31. The representative of Vanuatu, on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States, stated that they had joined the adoption by consensus of the rules of procedure with the understanding that the efforts to ensure the representation of the small island developing countries on the Bureau would continue. He thanked the Chairman of the Committee for his efforts in that regard and for the steps he had already taken and was continuing to take to ensure that participation in either a formal or informal manner.

G. Adoption of the agenda

32. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 11 February, the Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session.

2. Election of the Bureau.

3. Organizational matters:

   (a) Rules of procedure (A/AC.237/2 and Corr.1);

   (b) Adoption of the agenda;

   (c) Organization of work.

4. Preparation of an effective framework convention on climate change, containing appropriate commitments, and any related instruments as might be agreed upon.

5. Adoption of the report.

H. Participation of non-governmental organizations

33. At the 3rd plenary meeting, on 5 February, the Chairman referred to General Assembly resolution 45/212, which made explicit provision for the participation of non-governmental organizations. The Committee decided that, in order for the Committee to benefit from the important contribution that non-governmental organizations had to make on the subject of its discussion, two observers representing different groups of non-governmental organizations should be invited to speak at the end of the general debate.

I. Establishment of subsidiary organs and organization of work

34. At the 10th plenary meeting, on 14 February, Mr. Raúl Estrada-Oyuela (Argentina), Vice-Chairman of the Committee, reported on the consultations that had taken place in the informal contact group concerning subsidiary organs and introduced specific proposals on the subject (A/AC.237/L.3).

35. At the 11th plenary meeting, on 14 February, the Chairman stated that, after further consultations on these proposals, he was submitting a draft decision entitled "Establishment of subsidiary organs and organization of work" (A/AC.237/L.5). That draft decision superseded document A/AC.237/L.3.

36. The Committee then adopted the draft decision (see annex II, decision 1/1).

37. After the adoption of the draft decision, a statement was made by the representative of Ghana (on behalf of the States members of the Group of 77 and China).

38. At the same meeting, the Chairman also made a statement concerning the composition of the bureaux of the two Working Groups. He indicated that the election of the members of the bureaux would be postponed until the second session of the Committee.

39. A number of delegations expressed their willingness to show flexibility in solving the problem and to work further with the Chairman to that end.

III. SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS

A. General debate

40. Statements were made in the general debate by representatives of 68 Member States, as well as by representatives of a number of entities and organizations of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations.

41. Many countries stressed the importance of addressing the issue of global climate change in an integrated and comprehensive manner, taking into account all greenhouse gases, and their sources and sinks, and the need for phased and flexible long-term response strategies. Some of them also stressed that the efforts to address the global climate change issue should take full account of the special circumstances and needs of the developing countries and be based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibility. A common theme was the need to undertake at present actions that were also justified on other grounds, such as increasing energy efficiency and developing new, alternative and renewable sources of energy. In that context, it was stated that conservation measures should be adopted and implemented as soon as possible and that consumer patterns in developed countries should be changed. The capacity of forests and oceans as sinks and the problems of forest protection and afforestation were referred to as particularly important.

42. Many countries called for early finalization of the organizational part of the work of the Committee and for development of the first draft of the framework convention, which should be negotiated as soon as possible. They referred to the results of the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, to the Noordwijk, Hague, Cairo and other declarations and statements, and in particular the Ministerial Declaration of the Second World Climate Conference (A/45/696/Add.1, annex III); these should be taken into consideration in the development of the draft framework convention.

43. Most speakers referred to June 1992, the date of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as the date for the framework convention on climate change to be ready for signature. Some countries expressed the view that the negotiating process should concentrate on drafting the provisions of the framework convention, having in mind that preparation of related legal instruments and protocols could start at a later stage, taking into account the results of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. However, several countries stressed the need for negotiations to proceed in parallel on the framework convention and on protocols.

44. It was stated by several countries that actions should be based on the precautionary principle and on the best available scientific knowledge; that scientific uncertainties could not excuse inaction on global climate change; and that waiting for scientific proof could involve putting at risk the common future of humankind and its very existence. All countries recognized the need for continued research to enhance understanding of global climate change and its effects on the environment and humankind. Most countries strongly supported further development of scientific co-operation, monitoring and information exchange on scientific aspects of global climate change, including physical, chemical and biological processes, as well as on the impact of global climate change on forests, oceans and biological diversity. Many countries also referred to the need for advice to be available from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change during the negotiation process.

45. Some countries were of the view that the framework convention should contain general principles and general obligations, and that protocols, negotiated subsequently, could define commitments in a detailed and binding manner. Other countries emphasized that an effective framework convention on climate change should include firm commitments. Views expressed included the need to avoid arbitrary mechanical targets; to stabilize the emission of greenhouse gases by around the year 2000 at about 1990 levels; and to adopt targets for the reduction of emissions. Several countries advocated immediate and significant cuts in the emission of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases by industrialized countries. Several others emphasized that an effective framework convention on climate change should include specific commitments supplemented by protocols negotiated in parallel and urged all industrialized countries to undertake commitments to stabilize or reduce their carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions. Some of those proposed that stabilization by industrialized countries of carbon dioxide emissions should in general be achieved by the year 2000 at 1990 levels.

46. Many countries emphasized that an effective framework convention and any related legal instruments should be based on the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibility, taking full account of the necessity for the energy consumption of developing countries to grow as their economies develop. A number of countries expressed the need for all countries to make commitments to address climate change. Many other countries referred to the need for specific commitments by developed countries to provide transfer of technology on a preferential and concessional basis, and new and additional financial resources to developing countries, to enable them to address global climate change.

47. Many countries emphasized the special vulnerability of low-lying areas and small island countries to the effects of climate change. Several countries emphasized that the physical and cultural survival of small island countries was threatened by global warming from both sea-level rise and coral bleaching; consequently, their particular needs should be recognized and provided for in the framework convention. It was acknowledged that the participation of those countries in the negotiating process should be assured.

48. Several countries emphasized the need for a particular understanding of the potentially dramatic impacts of climate change on arid and semi-arid areas.

49. Some countries pointed to the particular situation of States whose economies were in transition and noted that their obligations should be established in the light of those circumstances. Such obligations would aim, inter alia, at a more efficient use of energy.

50. Some countries referred to the "polluter pays" principle as a corner-stone of the framework convention. Some emphasized that the countries whose per capita greenhouse gas emissions were high, and which emitted the most greenhouse gases in total, should reduce their emissions and co-operate with developing countries by compensating them for incremental costs involved in addressing climate change. Co-operation among all countries, developed and developing, was considered to be essential in the global effort to respond to climate change.

51. Some countries emphasized the need for the framework convention to contain provisions on scientific and economic research and the exchange of information and data in order to enhance understanding of global climate change.

52. It was suggested that the principles established under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer could serve as signposts to the way ahead. The Global Environment Facility (World Bank/UNEP/UNDP) was referred to in that context, as was the need for universality of the financial mechanism and equitability of the process.

53. A number of countries stated that the model of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer would not go far enough as a basis for a framework convention on climate change. Others expressed a different view.

54. It was stated that the framework convention must provide the right incentives for the development of technology and take into account all economic aspects of implementing measures to combat climate change.

55. Some countries also mentioned the need to include within the framework convention procedures concerning the settlement of disputes, non-compliance and ongoing review and updating of the international response.

56. A strong sense of urgency in the development of an effective framework convention was thoroughly emphasized and the organizational pattern of negotiations was referred to by way of proposals for the establishment of working groups.

57. Many countries stressed the need to ensure the participation of developing countries, in particular that of the least developed among them and small island developing countries, in the negotiating process through provision of financial resources from the special voluntary fund established for that purpose by the General Assembly in paragraph 10 of its resolution 45/212. Several countries noted their commitments to contribute to the fund. Some countries also made commitments to contribute to the trust fund established by the Assembly in paragraph 20 of the resolution to support the negotiating process for a framework convention for the duration of the negotiations. It was noted that some countries were providing funds in a bilateral context.

58. Many countries emphasized the importance of technical co-operation in the fields of training, public awareness and information exchange relevant to the preparation and implementation of a framework convention and to the development of national policies in the field of climate change.

59. Most countries referred to their domestic policies and actions undertaken to mitigate climate change, develop new sources of energy and improve energy efficiency. Some countries mentioned their commitments to reduce considerably their emissions of greenhouse gases.

60. Some countries mentioned, in sorrow, the Gulf crisis and its effects.

B. Relations with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

61. The Chairman conducted informal consultations on the above subject and reported on them to the Committee. He stressed that the modalities of the relationship between the Committee and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change were set out in paragraph 14 of General Assembly resolution 45/212. The purpose of raising the subject was to allow countries to express their views on possible contributions by the Panel to the work of the Committee. The Chairman summarized the views expressed on the work of the Panel as follows:

(a) Appreciation was expressed for the outstanding work of the Panel and for the statement made by its Chairman, Mr. B. Bolin. Most countries welcomed his suggestions on the continuation of the work of the Panel.

(b) All countries agreed that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was not a negotiating forum, that it could provide technical and scientific assistance to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and that, since the Panel was an independent body and would continue its work as mandated by WMO and UNEP, it

was for the Committee to decide which specific questions should be put, through its Executive Secretary, to the Panel at different stages.

(c) The desirability of the Panel's continuing to seek and achieve the full participation of developing countries in all aspects of its activity was emphasized. Views were also expressed that the lack of rules of procedure and the proliferation of subsidiary groups made the process of work of the Panel an extremely difficult one in which to participate.

(d) Certain countries suggested that in all its future activities the Panel should encourage the widest possible participation of experts and of relevant international and other organizations.

(e) Many countries presented various proposals and specific topics for the work the Panel should cover in both the short and the long term; the short-term work would assist the Committee in its negotiations leading to the preparation of a draft framework convention by the time of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development; some of the tasks initiated to that end might also need to be continued into the long term.

(f) It was understood that the Executive Secretary would co-operate closely with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to ensure that the Panel could respond to the needs and requests for objective scientific and technical advice made during the negotiating process.

C. Funds set up pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/212

62. Many countries emphasized the need to ensure the participation in the negotiating process of developing countries, in particular the least developed among them and small island developing countries, through financial assistance from the special voluntary fund established for the purpose by the General Assembly in paragraph 10 of resolution 45/212. Statements were made by several countries and the representative of a regional economic integration organization concerning their intentions to contribute to the fund: by 13 February 1991 approximately $US 1.25 million had been pledged, as shown in table 1. Some other countries indicated that they were in the process of considering pledges. Nevertheless, countries were very aware that demands on the fund during the whole period of the negotiations would considerably exceed the total of pledges made to date.

Table 1. Pledged contributions to the special voluntary fund to support the participation of developing countries, as at 14 February 1991

Contributor	Amount
Canada	$Can 35 000 ($US 30 000)
Denmark	$US 100 000
European Community	ECU 100 000 - 150 000 a/
France	FF 400 000 ($US 80 000)
Germany	$US 200 000 (over 2 years)
Japan	$US 200 000 b/
Netherlands	$US 150 000
Norway	$US 50 000
Spain	$US 50 000
Sweden	SKr 500 000 ($US 85 000)
Switzerland	SwF 300 000 ($US 250 000)
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	£ 30 000 ($US 60 000)
United States of America	$US 50 000
Total	$US 1 455 000

a/ Up to a maximum of $US 150,000.

b/ Announced on 14 February 1991; see para. 68.

63. Some countries stated that funds were being provided in bilateral contexts. One delegation stressed that the multilateral character of the special voluntary fund should be preserved.

64. Countries noted that reimbursement from the special voluntary fund for participation in the sessions of the Committee would be retroactive and so apply to the first session. Such reimbursement would cover subsistence (per diem) as well as travel costs. It was also noted that similar arrangements made in connection with participation in sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development were differentiated, providing for the payment of travel costs for one representative per developing country, on request, and of per diem to representatives of a limited category of developing countries, in that case the least developed countries.

65. One country indicated that it had made a commitment to contribute to the trust fund established by the General Assembly in paragraph 20 of its resolution 45/212, in order to support the negotiating process for the framework convention for the duration of the negotiations (see table 2).

Table 2. Pledged contributions to the trust fund for the negotiating process, as at 13 February 1991

Contributor	Amount
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	£ 30 000 ($US 60 000)

66. At the 11th plenary meeting, on 14 February, the Chairman drew the attention of the Committee to a draft decision entitled "Use of the special voluntary fund to support the participation of developing countries in the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change", submitted by him (A/AC.237/L.4).

67. The Committee then adopted the draft decision (see annex II, decision 1/2).

68. Following the adoption of the decision, the representative of Japan made a statement in which he announced that his country would make a contribution of $US 200,000 to the special voluntary fund.

IV. ARRANGEMENTS FOR FUTURE SESSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

A. Budget, staffing and location of the ad hoc secretariat

69. At the 11th plenary meeting, on 14 February 1991, the Executive Secretary made a statement on the funding of the negotiating process, including the operating budget of the secretariat, and indicated that the adequacy of estimates made for staff and conference-servicing costs, as well as the source of funding for other costs, would have to be examined in the light of the work plan emerging from the session. He recalled that, in adopting the resolution that established the Committee and its secretariat, the General Assembly had received a statement indicating that no additional appropriations would be required in respect of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991.

70. Provision would have to be made for general operating costs, travel, consultants and documentation. Costs might also be incurred for activities aimed at raising awareness of the issues under negotiation, particularly in developing countries. Those could include public information work and dialogue with non-governmental organizations.

71. Once the overall cost of the negotiating process had been estimated, it was his intention, in consultation with the Chairman, to present such estimates to the Committee in advance of its next session. That would enable Governments to assess the need for contributions to the trust fund and to respond to it, also in advance of the session.

72. On the question of staffing, he said that the arrangements for servicing the current meeting were specific to it. He would consult the responsible departments at United Nations Headquarters on the constitution of the secretariat, and the executive heads of UNEP and WMO, as well as other bodies, on the possibilities for secondment of staff.

73. Concerning the location of the secretariat at Geneva, he said there were options that he would explore on his return. It would be desirable to find a location that would maximize the ability of the Committee secretariat to draw upon existing infrastructures, thereby minimizing its own staffing and support needs. He drew attention to document A/AC.237/INF.2, entitled "Temporary secretariat arrangements", which indicated the present office address at the Palais des Nations at Geneva where he might be reached until further notice.

B. Dates and venues of the next sessions

74. At the 11th plenary meeting, on 14 February, the Chairman made a statement in which he outlined the difficulties involved in scheduling the next three sessions of the Committee in line with the proposals contained in paragraph 4 of resolution 45/212. These difficulties arose from the shortage of conference-servicing facilities and the need to avoid overlaps with related intergovernmental meetings.

75. It was decided, on a tentative basis, that the second session of the Committee should be held in June 1991, while the third and fourth sessions might take place in September and December 1991 respectively. The second session might be held at Nairobi, in which case the third and fourth would take place at Geneva. The Chairman stressed that both dates and venues were subject to change. Delegations would be informed as soon as a final decision could be taken.

76. Delegations pointed out the difficulties involved in their participation in the meetings and requested that they be informed well in advance of the dates decided upon.

C. Circulation of informal papers

77. At the 11th plenary meeting, on 14 February, the Chairman drew attention to the circulation at the session of several informal papers concerning the possible content of a framework convention and issues arising in its negotiation. It had been suggested to him that it would be desirable for all delegations and the secretariat to have access to a complete set of these informal papers. He invited those delegations which had circulated such papers, or wished to do so, to send them to the secretariat at Geneva, by 15 March if possible. The secretariat would make available to interested delegations copies of informal papers received by it in the original languages.

V. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

78. At the 11th plenary meeting, on 14 February, the Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur of the Committee, Mr. Ion Draghici (Romania), introduced and orally revised the draft report of the Committee on the work of its first session, as contained in documents A/AC.237/L.1 and Corr.2, Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, and Add.2-4.

79. The Committee then adopted the draft report as orally revised and requested the Rapporteur to complete the text, taking into account the proceedings of the Committee at its 11th plenary meeting, and to make the necessary editorial changes in the report as a whole, in conformity with established United Nations practice.

VI. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

80. At the 11th plenary meeting, on 14 February, the Chairman of the Committee in his closing statement summed up the positive achievements of the meeting and stressed the useful work done by the Committee at its first session in defining the mandates of the two Working Groups and thus setting the foundation for the negotiating process to be continued at the next sessions. It had also been important that all delegations representing industrialized countries had declared the commitments of their countries to action on specific measures aimed at limiting emissions of greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide, that might have an adverse effect on climate. Industrialized nations had a major role to play in this area, while developing countries must be assisted in becoming full partners in the negotiating process, as well as in initiating action to make efficient, non-polluting use of their energy resources, taking into account their individual development needs. Assistance in terms of financing and transfer of technology was an issue that would need to be addressed.

81. At the same meeting, the Chairman introduced a draft decision entitled "Expression of thanks to the Government and people of the United States of America". The Committee adopted the draft decision by acclamation (see annex II, decision 1/3).

82. Expressions of appreciation to the officers of the Committee, the secretariat and all those associated with the work of the session were voiced by the representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, on behalf of the Eastern European States; Vanuatu, on behalf of the Asian and Pacific States, and also of the Alliance of Small Island States; Cuba, on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean States; Greece, on behalf of the Western European and other States; and Zaire, on behalf of the African States.

83. The Chairman thanked all those present for their participation in the first session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and declared the session closed.

ANNEX I

Documents before the Committee at its first session

1. The following documents were made available to the Committee:

(a)	General Assembly resolution 44/207 of 22 December 1989, on the preparations for the negotiation of the framework convention on climate change	
(b)	General Assembly resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989, on the convening of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development	
(c)	A/45/696 and Add.1	Report of the Secretary-General on progress achieved in the implementation of resolution 44/207 on protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind
(d)	General Assembly resolution 45/212 of 21 December 1990, entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind"	
(e)	A/AC.237/1	Provisional agenda
(f)	A/AC.237/1/Add.1	Annotated provisional agenda
(g)	A/AC.237/2 and Corr.1	Note by the Secretariat on the rules of procedure
(h)	A/AC.237/3	Tentative schedule of meetings
(i)	A/AC.237/4	Documents relating to the meeting
(j)	A/AC.237/5	Rules of procedure
(k)	A/AC.237/L.1 and Corr.2, Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, and Add.2-4	Draft report
(l)	A/AC.237/L.2	Proposal concerning the rules of procedure submitted by the Vice-Chairman
(m)	A/AC.237/L.3	Proposal concerning subsidiary organs submitted by the Vice-Chairman

(n)	A/AC.237/L.4	Draft decision submitted by the Chairman, entitled "Use of the special voluntary fund to support the participation of developing countries in the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change"
(o)	A/AC.237/L.5	Draft decision submitted by the Chairman, entitled "Establishment of subsidiary organs and organization of work"
(p)	A/AC.237/INF.1 and Corr.1	List of participants
(q)	A/AC.237/INF.2	Note by the secretariat on temporary secretariat arrangements

2. The following documents were also at the disposal of delegates:

(a) First Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (including its paper on legal measures)

(b) Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Government Representatives to Prepare for Negotiations on a Framework Convention on Climate Change on its meeting held at Geneva from 24 to 26 September 1990

3. The following documents were available for consultation at the meeting:

(a)	A/44/48	Report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development on the work of its organizational session (5-16 March 1990)
(b)	A/45/25	Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its second special session (1-3 August 1990)
(c)	A/45/46	Report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development on the work of its first substantive session (6-31 August 1990)

ANNEX II

Decisions of the Committee

1/1. Establishment of subsidiary organs and organization of work

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change

1. Decides to establish two Working Groups to assist the Committee in carrying out its work;

2. Adopts the guidelines for the negotiations, organization of Working Groups and procedural points contained in the annex to the present decision.

ANNEX

I. GUIDELINES FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS

1. All items in the negotiations should be dealt with in an integrated manner and on the basis of General Assembly resolution 45/212 of 21 December 1990, which, inter alia, reaffirms the principles embodied in General Assembly resolutions 44/207 and 44/228, both of 22 December 1989.

2. The work of the groups must be interrelated and will be integrated by the plenary. To this end the two Working Groups will report regularly to the plenary.

3. Funding commitments, mechanisms and means for transfer of technology to developing countries, as well as matters concerning international scientific and technological co-operation, should be an integral element in the negotiations.

4. The final agreement on the convention should cover in an integrated manner all areas of common concern, including, inter alia: (a) emissions; (b) sinks; (c) transfer of technology; (d) financial resources and funding mechanisms for developing countries; (e) international scientific and technological co-operation; and (f) measures to counter the effects of climate change and its possible adverse impact, particularly on small island developing countries, low-lying coastal, arid and semi-arid areas, tropical regions liable to seasonal flooding and areas prone to drought and desertification.

II. ORGANIZATION OF WORKING GROUPS

5. The Working Groups will prepare draft texts for consideration by the plenary.

A. Working Group I: Commitments

6. Working Group I will prepare a text related to:

(a) Appropriate commitments, beyond those required by existing agreements, for limiting and reducing net emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, on the protection, enhancement and increase of sinks and reservoirs, and in support of measures to counter the adverse effects of climate change, taking into account that contributions should be equitably differentiated according to countries' responsibilities and their level of development;

(b) Appropriate commitments on adequate and additional financial resources to enable developing countries to meet incremental costs required to fulfil the commitments referred to above and to facilitate the transfer of technology expeditiously on a fair and most favourable basis;

(c) Commitments addressing the special situation of developing countries, taking into account their development needs, including, inter alia, the problems of small island developing countries, low-lying coastal areas and areas threatened by erosion, flooding, desertification and high urban atmospheric pollution; also taking into account the problems of economies in transition.

B. Working Group II: Mechanisms

7. Working Group II will prepare a text related to:

(a) Legal and institutional mechanisms, including, inter alia, entry into force, withdrawal, compliance and assessment and review;

(b) Legal and institutional mechanisms related to scientific co-operation, monitoring and information;

(c) Legal and institutional mechanisms related to adequate and additional financial resources and technological needs and co-operation, and technology transfer to developing countries corresponding to the commitments agreed to in Working Group I.

III. PROCEDURAL POINTS

8. There will be no more than two meetings held at any one time within the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee.

9. There will be no inter-sessional meetings of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee Working Groups or any subgroups.

10. All drafting is to be done by each Working Group, within the framework of its mandate, subject to any subsequent need for harmonization.

11. If and when it is deemed necessary, the Working Groups, subject to the approval of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, may establish ad hoc subgroups to deal with specific issues, with due respect to the understanding that no more than two meetings may be held at any one time. These groups would be reviewed continually to allow reformulation and adjustment in order to reflect the progress of the negotiations.

1/2. Use of the special voluntary fund to support the participation of developing countries in the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change

1. Welcomes the expressed intention of several Governments and a regional integration organization to contribute to the special voluntary fund established by the General Assembly in paragraph 10 of its resolution 45/212 of 21 December 1990;

2. Urges Governments that are in a position to do so but have not yet done so to contribute to the special voluntary fund according to their possibilities at an early date and expresses the hope that those which have already done so will make further contributions;

3. Urges relevant bodies of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organization, to contribute generously to the special voluntary fund and invites the Chairman of the Committee to convey this appeal to the executive heads of those bodies, as well as to those of other interested organizations;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Committee, in determining the eligibility of countries for access to the fund, to bear in mind the following considerations in addition to the criteria set out in paragraph 10 of resolution 45/212:

(a) The vulnerability of countries to the rise in sea-level, drought and desertification, and severe weather disturbances;

(b) The importance of financing the attendance of experts, including scientists, as members of delegations from developing countries;

(c) Adequate regional representation of developing countries;

(d) The important role of regional organizations in providing suitable technical support to the effective participation of developing countries in the negotiating process;

5. Invites donors and recipients of financial assistance to keep the Executive Secretary informed of their relevant funding arrangements, so that the special voluntary fund may be used to the greatest effect;

6. Requests the Executive Secretary to facilitate the full and effective participation in the work of the Committee of developing countries, and indeed of all countries entitled to participate, by ensuring the timely and well-directed distribution of notifications, documentation and other information well in advance of Committee sessions, and by making adequate provision for this purpose within the capacities of the secretariat.

1/3. Expression of thanks to the Government and people of the United States of America

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Having met at Washington, D.C., from 4 to 14 February 1991 at the invitation of the Government of the United States of America,

Expresses its profound gratitude to the Government and people of the United States of America for their warm and generous hospitality and for the excellent facilities provided during the first session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee.